Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02282 201626Z

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 H-02 JUSE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03

SCA-01 /021 W

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R 201600Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8475 INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY TU CPRS US

SUBJ: PROPERTY CLAIMS IN TURKISH-CONTROLLED AREA OF CYPRUS

REF: (A) STATE 057040 (B) STATE 61133

- 1. DCM DELIVERED NOTE OUTLINED IN REF (A) (AS MODIFIED BY REF (B)) TO MFA DIRECTOR GREEK-CYPRUS AFFAIRS ECMEL BARUTCU AFTERNOON THURSDAY, MARCH 20. DCM POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS A COMMUNICATION AIMED AT SETTING FORTH US VIEW OF RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF ITS CITIZENS IN TURKISHHELD AREA OF CYPRUS AS ESTABLISHED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW.
- 2. BARUTCU READ THE NOTE CAREFULLY AND THEN ASKED WHETHER WE WERE ADVISING AMERICAN CITIZENS AND FIRMS TO AVOID REGISTRATION OF THEIR PROPERTIES WITH TURK-CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES. DCM SAID THAT WE WERE NEIGHER ENCOURAGING NOR DISCOURAGING THEN TO DO SO. DCM ADDED THAT A COMMUNICATION ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO OUR NOTE WAS BEING HANDED TO DENKTASH ON THE ISLAND.
- 3. BARUTCU RECALLED PREVIOUS ADVICE HE HAD GIVEN THAT WE SHOULD NOT "EXAGGERATE" SIGNIFICANCE OF REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION OF PROPERTY. HE THOUGHT AMERICAN CITIZENS AND FIRMS SHOULD REGISTER IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS. HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT USG WAS NOT RPT NOT COUNSELING THEM NOT RPT NOT TO REGISTER. CONFIDENTIAL

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- 4. BARUTCU CONTINUED THAT WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT WHAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WANTED WAS TO PROTECT FOREIGN INTERESTS IN THEIR AREA. HE SAID REGISTRATION WOULD NOT RPT NOT INVOLVE PRE-JUDGMENT OF WHAT KIND OF SOLUTION WOULD ULTIMATELY BE FOUND ON THE ISLAND. AFTER ALL, NEITHER TURKISH CYPRIOTS NOR GOT THEMSELVES KNEW WHAT KIND OF SOLUTION WOULD FINALLY EVENTUATE.
- 5. BARUTCU EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT RESTRICTIONS ON CONSULAR ACCESS TO TURKISH-CYPRIOT AREA STILL PRESENTED A PROBLEM TO USG. HE THOUGHT THAT THAT HAD BEEN FAVORABLY RESOLVED. DCM SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT BUT THAT SITUATION WAS STILL FAR FROM WHAT WE BELIEVED WE WERE ENTITLED TO UNDER ACCEPTED NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE. BARUTCU SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS.
- 6. BARUTCU CONCLUDED BY SAYING THE NOTE WOULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL STUDY IN THE MINISTRY AND THAT A REPLY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN DUE COURSE.
- 7. ON LEAVING BARUTCU'S OFFICE DCM WAS QUESTIONED BY SEVERAL REPORTERS AS TO NATURE OF VISIT. DCM SAID CALL HAD BEEN MADE AT HIS REQUEST AND HAD TO DEAL PURELY WITH CONSULAR MATTERS AFFECTING AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE TURKISH-HELD AREA OF CYPRUS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA02282

Document Number: 1975ANKARA02282 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750098-0783

From: ANKARA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750334/aaaabeea.tel Line Count: 88

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION L Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 057040, 75 STATE 61133
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PROPERTY CLAIMS IN TURKISH-CONTROLLED AREA OF CYPRUS

TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, CY, TU, US
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006